

2022 Kentucky Small Business Person of the Year Award

Nominees from each of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Guam will compete for the title of the National Small Business Person of the Year, SBA's signature award. Nominees must demonstrate success in business as well as contributions to their local communities.

Who is eligible to be nominated for this award?

The nominee must be a legal resident of the United States or its territories who is a majority owner (51% or more) and operator or bear principal responsibility for operating a small business in Kentucky with a minimum three (3) year track record.

Partners who jointly own and operate a small business may be nominated as a team, so long as the number of individuals in the team nomination does not exceed four.

Nominees must also be residents of Kentucky and will be subject to background checks. Small businesses owned and operated by nominees must comply with federal civil rights laws.

The nominee must also have received some type of SBA assistance such as an SBA loan, SCORE counseling, Small Business Development Center (SBDC) assistance, Veteran's Business Outreach Center (VBOC) assistance, Women's Business Center (WBC) assistance, government contracting assistance, disaster assistance, Emerging Leaders Initiative or Boots to Business training.

Who is NOT eligible to be nominated for this award?

1. Individuals who have received the Small Business Person Award at the state level within the past three years.
2. Elected officials.
3. Individuals or teams who own or operate a business defined as "other than small" (i.e. large businesses) for its primary industry under the applicable SBA size standards.
4. Individuals or firms currently suspended or debarred by the Federal government.

What are the evaluation/selection criteria?

In evaluating the nomination packages, the judges will look at the following criteria:

1. Staying power — a substantiated history as an established business; including but not limited to expansion, exporting, addition of territories, or growth in square footage occupied;
2. Growth in number of employees — Increases over the three years must be in excess of growth in Gross Domestic Product;

3. Increase in sales, net profit, and net worth for calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.

Note: SBA understands the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to virtually all small businesses since early 2020. Judges will consider this in their decisions.

4. Response to adversity — examples of problems faced in the nominee's business and the methods used to solve them;

5. Contributions to community-oriented projects — evidence of the use of his/her personal time and resources towards community-oriented projects;

6. Innovativeness of products or services offered — an illustration of the creativity and imagination of the nominee. This should include specific description of uniqueness of product or service and an explanation of how product or service fits a niche not being adequately addressed by the competition; and

7. If applicable, a description of the products exported and markets served.

Who may submit nominations for this award?

Any individual or organization dedicated to the support of the small business community in Kentucky, including, but not limited to, trade and professional associations and business organizations, may submit nominations. Individuals may not be nominated for more than one 2021 Small Business Week award.

Individuals may self-nominate.

What information must the nomination package contain?

Nominations must be in type 12 font, formatted in size 8½" x 11" size. Incomplete nomination packages will not be considered.

All evaluation/selection criteria must be specifically addressed. A complete nomination package will also include, in the following order:

1. A completed background form (SBA Form 3300, Award Nominee Background Form) which is available at www.sba.gov/nsbw. For "team" nominations, a background form is required for each team member.

2. A completed nomination form (SBA Form 3301, Small Business Person of the Year) which is available at www.sba.gov/nsbw.

3. Please complete a Financial Summary Table, available on the SBA Kentucky District Office website, and submit with the rest of the nomination packet.

4. An 8" x 10" or 5" x 7" digital photo of the nominee, at least 300 dpi (3-5 MB) is required. For team nominations, a group photo is acceptable.

5. Four to five additional photos of nominee's company and, if applicable, employees at work.

6. Additional supporting documentation deemed significant by the nominator, including news clips, letters of recommendation, nomination letter (if not self-nominated), and other evidence of the appropriateness of the nomination (supporting documentation must not exceed 10 pages). Videos will not be considered.

What are the selection procedures?

1. In Kentucky, a panel of judges of federal employees will select the State winner.
2. The National Small Business Person of the Year will be selected by the SBA Administrator based on, but not restricted to, the recommendations of the panel of judges of federal employees.

What is the deadline for nominations?

All nominations must be emailed **no later than 3:00 p.m. ET, January 11, 2022** to:

[SBA Kentucky 2022 Small Business Awards](#)

<https://sba.app.box.com/f/721dbf59445f41de8fe87344fdaa819f>

Do not mail or deliver nominations to the Kentucky District Office.

Questions? Please contact sharron.johnson@sba.gov.